

REMARKS

This Amendment responds completely to the outstanding Office Action mailed September 9, 2004. Each of claims 1-21 is amended hereby.

Response To Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by US Patent No. 6,408,330 to DeLaHuerga. The Examiner asserts that DeLaHuerga discloses an image management system that comprises an image acquisition device (col. 48, line 24-5), a computer coupled to the image acquisition device including logic for receiving a diagnostic image from the image acquisition device (col. 44, lines 23-32, col. 19, lines 14-43 and a memory element associated with the computer, where the memory element stores a plurality of electronic signature files (col. 42, lines 33-47, col. 56, lines 35-37; col. 56, lines 52-4), wherein the computer includes logic for associating one of the plurality of electronic signature files with the diagnostic image (col. 42, lines 33-47).

Applicants respectfully disagree that DeLaHuerga anticipates their independent claims 1, 9 and 10, and dependent claims 2-8, which depend from claim 1.

More particularly, applicants' claim 1 sets forth an image management system that includes an image acquisition device for acquiring diagnostic images, a computer coupled to the image acquisition device, the computer including logic for receiving a diagnostic image from the image acquisition device and a memory element associated with the computer, where the memory element stores a plurality of electronic signature files. The computer includes logic for associating one of the plurality of electronic signature files with the diagnostic image.

Applicants' claim 8 sets forth a method for applying an electronic signature to a report associated with an image file. The method includes acquiring a diagnostic image using an image acquisition device, forwarding the diagnostic image to a computer, providing the report associated with the image file to the computer, storing a plurality of electronic signature files in a memory associated with a computer and associating one of the plurality of electronic signature files with the

report and/or diagnostic image.

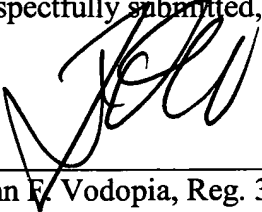
Applicants' claim 15 sets forth a computer readable medium having a program comprising a set of computer readable instructions for implementation by a computer system in order to apply an electronic signature to a report associated with an image file. The program includes logic for receiving a diagnostic image from an image acquisition device, forwarding the diagnostic image to a computer system coupled to the device, storing a plurality of electronic signature files in a memory associated with a computer system, and associating one of the plurality of electronic signature files with the report and/or diagnostic image.

DeLaHuerga teaches an information network which is able to remotely gather and remotely store information at specific network memory locations. While the Examiner asserts that DeLaHerga at col. 48, lines 24-45, disclose an image acquisition device, DeLaHerga actually shows only a digital signature pad for acquiring electronic signatures, which may or may not include an image of the signature. Moreover, applicants finds nothing at col. 44, lines 23-32, or col. 19, lines 14-43, which could be interpreted as being a computer attached to an image acquisition device for acquiring and displaying diagnostic images from the image acquisition device. For that matter, and as mentioned above, DeLaHerga does not include an image acquisition device for acquiring medical diagnostic images, so still less a computer coupled to an image acquisition device, both requirements set forth in each of their independent claims.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8 and 15 can not anticipated by DeLaHuerga under 35 USC § 102e, and applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to those independent claims. Furthermore, because dependent claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21 depend from independent claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, applicants respectfully assert that those dependent claims are also patentable under § 102 in view of DeLaHuerga or at least the reasons set forth for the patentability of independent claims 1, 8 and 15, and accordingly request withdrawal of the rejections of same.

In conclusion, applicants request allowance of claims 1-21, over the art of record, and passage to issue of this application including all of pending claims 1-21.

Respectfully submitted,


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